

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 130950Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9336

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2727

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS INFO ROUTINE JCS WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, MASS, OREP, CB, US

SUBJECT: CALL ON MARSHAL LON NOL WITH CINCPAC

1. ADMIRAL GAYLER CALLED ON MARSHAL LON NOL MORNING OF FEB 13. IN ADDITION, DCM, GENERAL PALMER AND I ATTENDED THE MEETING. MARSHAL HAD WITH HIM KEY MILITARY LEADERS OF THE REPUBLIC.

2. ADMIRAL GAYLER AND I BETWEEN US MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH THE MARSHAL AND THE TOP KHMER LEADERSHIP:  
A. TEMPORARY EMERGENCY AIRLIFT TO FERRY IN NEEDED AMMUNITION IS DESIGNED TO GAIN TIME FOR THE KHMERS TO GET THE MEKONG OPEN AGAIN. IT IS BASICALLY LIMITED IN TIME AND IN THE AMOUNTS OF AMMUNITION WHICH CAN BE BROUGHT IN BY THIS MEANS. KHMERS MUST USE THIS TIME TO EXECUTE SUCCESSFUL MILITARY LANDINGS AT CHOKE POINTS ALONG THE LOWER MEKONG, TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE CONVOYS AND TO SWEEP MINES OBSTRUCTING CHANNELS. THE SALVATION OF THE REPUBLIC LIES IN THE OPENING OF THE MEKONG. THEREFORE, KHMERS MUST ENGAGE SUFFICIENT GROUND TROOPS TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE PLANNED LANDINGS AND DISLODGE ENEMY FORCES. THE USE OF THE ONE BRIGADE PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED FOR THIS EFFORT MAY BE INSUFFICIENT. MARSHAL MUST FIND ADDITIONAL  
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TROOPS SO THAT THE INITIAL ATTEMPT IS SUCCESSFUL. AT

THE SAME TIME, KHMER GROUND FORCES MUST ASSURE SECURITY OF POCHENTONG AIRPORT SO THAT Airlift can BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT MISHAPS.

B. WE INFORMED THE MARSHAL ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO CAMBODIA. WE EXPLAINED THIS WILL BE A CRUCIAL VISIT BECAUSE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WILL HAVE TO BE CONVINCED ABOUT THE NEED TO VOTE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FOR CAMBODIA. WE THEN GAVE MARSHAL SOME OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN STATE 031771. WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT, AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION CANNOT CONTINUE ITS ASSISTANCE TO GKR. IT IS THEREFORE A MATTER OF NATIONAL SURVIVAL FOR THE KHMERS THAT THEY SHOW TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION THEIR DEMONSTRATED DETERMINATION TO RESIST THE ENEMY AND, AT THE SAME TIME, THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT WITH THE KHMERS ON THE OTHER SIDE. WE GAVE NO DETAILS AS TO DATES OF THIS VISIT.

C. THE MAIN POINT WE MADE TO THE MARSHAL AND THE MILITARY LEADERS WAS THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO HELP THE GKR TO GET THROUGH THIS CRITICAL PERIOD, BUT THAT THIS HELP MUST COME THROUGH OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES. THE WILL TO SURVIVE AND THE WILLINGNESS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY SACRIFICES MUST COME FROM THE KHMERS THEMSELVES.

3. THESE ITEMS OF INFORMATION WE GAVE NBE MARSHAL AND HIS TEAM SHOULD BE MORALE BOOSTERS AND SHOULD HELP REBUILD THE SAGGING MORALE IN BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE CIRCLES, ONCE THE AIRLIFT BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE HERE AND THE VISIT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IS ANNOUNCED.

4. THE MARSHAL AGREED WITH OUR ASSESSMENT AND THANKED THE ADMIRAL FOR CONVEYING THE MESSAGE OF CONTINUED AMERICAN CONCERN. IN RESPONSE TO A SPECIFIC SUGGESTION THAT THE 85TH BRIGADE BE MOVED FROM KOMPONG CHAM IN SUPPORT OF THE 4TH BRIGADE MAKING THE ASSAULT ON THE CHOKE POINTS ON THE LOWER MEKONG, THE MARSHAL REPLIED THAT WAYS WILL BE FOUND TO REINFORCE THE 4TH BRIGADE AND HE WOULD LEAVE IT UP TO THE MILITARY EXPERTS TO DETERMINE  
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WHICH TROOPS WILL BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

5. THE MARSHAL WELCOMES THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND ASSURED US THAT HE AND THE GKR WOULD DO ALL IN THEIR POWER TO SHOW THE DETERMINATION OF THE ARMED FORCES TO FIGHT AND OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION TO OPPOSE THE ENEMY. EARLIER IN THE CONVERSATION HE MENTIONED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY

EXPERIENCE WITH HIM THE MALAISE EXISTING BOTH IN OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL CIRCLES IN PHNOM PENH ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE REPUBLIC. HE STRESSED THAT FANK WILL FIGHT ON, BUT AN EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO FIND AN HONORABLE SOLUTION TO THE STRUGGLE. THE CLOSING OF THE MEKONG AND THE RECENT ROCKET ATTACKS AGAINST THE CITY, WHICH HAVE KILLED A LOT OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS, HAVE UNDERMINED MORALE.

6. ADMIRAL GAYLER EXPRESSED HIS ESTEEM FOR FANK'S PERFORMANCE, WHICH IN MANY AREAS HAS BEEN GALLANT AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. THE DETERMINED STAND OF THE GARRISON AT KOMPONG SEILA, ISOLATED FOR NINE MONTHS, IS ONLY ONE EXAMPLE OF DEMONSTRATED KHMER DETERMINATION TO WITHSTAND THE ENEMY'S EFFORT TO IMPOSE ITS WILL MILITARILY. THE ADMIRAL STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE FANK FORCES TO MAKE A SUPREME EFFORT NOW. DETERMINATION AND WILL AT THIS CRITICAL TIME ARE ESSENTIAL TO CONTINUED AMERICAN SUPPORT AND TO ANY PROSPECT FOR AN ORDERLY SETTLEMENT, WHICH ALL HANDS SEEK.

7. COMMENT: THE MARSHAL AS ALWAYS WAS IMPRECISE AND TENDED TO TEMPORIZE, BUT HIS ASSURANCE OF DETERMINATION WAS CLEARLY NOTED AND EMPHATICALLY REINFORCED IN LATER MEETINGS WITH THE KHMER MILITARY.  
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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## Message Attributes

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